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(71) Applicant(s):
Imagine Broadband Limited
(Incorporated in the United Kingdom)
Carmelite, 50 Victoria Embankment,
Blackfriars, LONDON, EC4Y 0DX,
United Kingdom

(72) Inventor(s):
Dipan Patel

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service:
Mathys & Squire
100 Grays Inn Road, LONDON, WC1X 8AL,
United Kingdom

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(56) Documents Cited:
EP 1189439 A2 **WO 2001/031920 A1**
WO 2000/064178 A1

(58) Field of Search:
UK CL (Edition W) **H4P**
INT CL⁷ **H04L, H04N**
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(54) Abstract Title: **Selectively distributing data to a subset of television set top boxes.**

(57) Data is selectively installed on a subset of set top boxes in a subscriber television service network in order to detect software upgrade problems in a trial batch of users before mass installation. Unique device hardware identifiers are used to arbitrarily partition subsets of devices and a matching key uses each unique ID to determine which of these devices require upgrading. Update conditions may be checked periodically or after switching the device on, and the response of the device to the upgrade can be monitored in order to determine whether to upgrade further devices outside the partitioned subgroup. The method is applicable to mobile telephone networks, base stations, computer networks and home security networks.

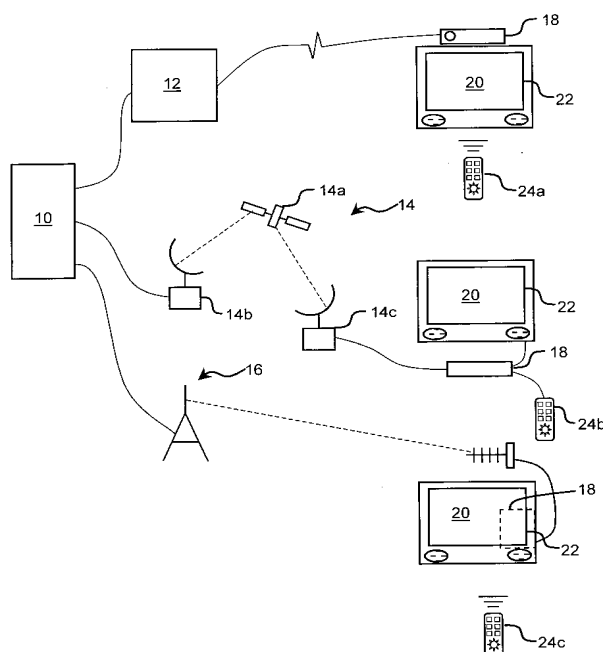


Fig. 1

